

Sonoma County Regional Parks Fire Incident History 1990-1998

Regional Parks and Trails

There were 134 total incidents in parks involving fire of some description between 1990 - 1998. However, only 73 of these incidents involved a fire agency responding to the incident. Six of the 73 fire incidents occurred when Regional Parks property was used by fire agencies for access to adjacent properties where a fire was burning. Of the 67 fires which occurred on Regional Parks property, 19 were significant where an area greater than 1/4 acre was affected. Only seven of these 19 significant fires exceeded one acre in size. Of the 19 fires, two were caused by PG&E overhead wires, two were fires from the adjacent highway, and two fires were caused by neighbors and the fire spread to park property.

This summary reflects 9 years, 16 parks, 4,046 acres, and over 13 million visitors total, averaging 1.7 million visitors a year.

Bold lettering denotes fire incident to which fire agency responded.

- ☐ Fire over 1 acre
- ☐☐ Fire 1/4-1 acre
- Incident which fire agency traversed park property for access to neighboring property

SHILOH REGIONAL PARK

- ☐☐ October 18, 1990 Small fire by Picnic Area burned part of picnic table leg
- ☐☐ **September 2, 1991** 2 acre Fire caused by power line fire CDF & Rincon Fire Dept. (newspaper reported 5 acres)
- ☐ **September 25 1993** 5-6 acres burned CDF and Rincon Fire Dept. (CDF investigator)
- ☐ August 25, 1994 Small fire 5'x5' in Picnic Area

WEST COUNTY/JOE RODOTA REGIONAL TRAIL

- ☐☐ **August 13, 1994** 2 acre fire at Merced caused by power line next to Highway 12
- June 27, 1992** Small fire less than 6 sf on trail possible arson. Sebastopol Fire Dept. responded
- ☐ June 29, 1998 The remains of a firer on sidewalk, no damage done

CRANE CREEK REGIONAL PARK

- April 3, 1990** **Burned stump of tree. Pennngrove Fire Dept. responded**
- ☐ April 11, 1990 Garbage can fire
- ☐ April 15, 1991 Picnic tables damaged by fire
- ☐ June 17, 1991 Burn marks on picnic table
- ☐ October 20, 1991 Disposable barbeque scorches picnic table
- ☐ November 19, 1991 Fire in trash receptacle
- ☐ May 5, 1992 Illegal campfire remains found
- ☐☐ **August 12, 1992** **1/4 acre fire caused by park visitor smoking on trail. CDF responded. Request for no smoking signs**
- ☐ July 23, 1993 Remains of illegal fire found
- ☐ June 6, 1994 Remains of fire found. 2'x2
- July 3, 1995** **Small fire less than 6 sf Rancho Adobe Fire Dept**

FOOTHILL REGIONAL PARK

	September 16, 1990	Remains of charcoal briquets and sticks found cool
	September 13, 1991	Old campfire site found and destroyed. Site monitored for potential reuse
	November 25, 1992	Old campfire site found and destroyed
	February 15, 1993	Bonfire and gunshots reported to sheriff=s office. None found
	March 19, 1994	Burning cigarette in iron ranger. No damage
	September 7, 1995	Adjacent to Park. Access via Vinecrest Circle. Minor fence damage. Caused by homeowner=s lawnmower
☒	June 27, 1996	1/4 Acre. Just inside park from homeowner=s private gate
☒	September 19, 1997	Three fires east of and between lakes 2 and 3. Cause possible arson, Windsor Fire Dept. and CDF responded. Burned 2.5 acres.

RAGLE RANCH REGIONAL PARK

	May 17, 1993	Fire from hot barbeque coals in dumpster extinguished by fire department
	September 26, 1993	Teens tried to start a fire, were told to leave
☒	September 24, 1994	Fire in wetland area burned appx 5 acres. Graton, Forestville and Goldridge Fire Districts on site
	October 4, 1998	Car fire in north parking lot. Two off duty volunteer firemen helped to extinguish the fire. No property damage done, cause unknown

HELEN PUTNAM REGIONAL PARK

	August 8, 1992	Small cleared area with assembled wood appeared as if was going to be lit
☒	August 13, 1994	CDF responded to a 1-2 Acre fire. Fire had occurred in the same spot previously
	March 13, 1995	Warm campfire found
	August 26, 1995	Deserted fire ring found and destroyed

STILLWATER COVE PARK

	August 18, 1990	Fire caused by children in campsite 12'x30' area burned. Timber Cove Fire Dept. & CDF responded
	April 7, 1991	Power line fire in high winds adjacent to park. Timber Cove Fire Dept. & CDF responded
	August 27, 1992	Fire off Highway 1 Timber Cove Fire Dept. & CDF responded
☐	November 27, 1993	Fire at Salt Point State Park, threatening Stillwater Cove Regional Park. Nature of fire unknown, Timber Cove Fire Dept. responded. Acres burned unknown
	August 30, 1997	A large campfire on Stillwater Beach. No damage done, no fire assistance needed
☐	April 18, 1998	A small brush fire on west side of Hwy 1. Area burned 10'x10', Timber Cove Volunteer Fire Dept responded, cause unknown
	August 7, 1998	An illegal bonfire on Stockoff Cove Beach. Volunteer Fire Dept. responded. No damage done

DORAN REGIONAL PARK

August 26, 1990

Dry driftwood burning near beach. Bodega Bay Fire Dept. responded, cause unknown, no other area burned

May 9, 1992

Trash can fire, cause hot coals from barbecue pit. No other damage done

July 9, 1992

Smoldering log on beach below Bodega Harbor. Bodega Bay Fire Dept. responded, cause unknown, no damage done

June 26, 1993

Grass fire in Jetty campground. Campers and Ranger put out fire, cause was from cigarette butt

July 8, 1993

Sparks from firing ignited camping mattress, fire was extinguished by Park Aide

June 1, 1994

Fire in campsite E., Rangers and Coast Guard put fire out. Cause unknown, area burned 15'x30'

July 23, 1995

Fisherman's truck caught fire while retrieving boat at boat ramp. Bodega Bay Fire Dept. responded, no damage to facilities

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK

June 20, 1990

Camper tried to increase campfire with gas. Fire Dept. called no action taken, Park Aide used extinguisher. Area burned 4'x7'

☺ **August 9, 1990**

Grassfire by watertank, Fire Dept. responded, acres burned 1 acre. Cause unknown

□ **August 13, 1990**

Outside agency assist, fire near burn pile by Howarth Park. Fire Dept. responded, 1 acre burned. Cause unknown

□ **August 16, 1990**

Outside agency assist, fire related to Aug. 13 fire. Fire Dept. responded, 1 acre burned. Cause unknown

September 6, 1990

Possible arson, related to fires in Aug. 13 & 16. Fire Dept. responded, acres burned unknown

☺ **September 13, 1990**

Outside agency assist, fire above Braille Trail. CDF responded, 5 acres burned. Cause unknown

September 20, 1990

Outside agency assist, fire Braille Trail Spring Creek Channel. CDF and SRFD responded. Area burned unknown, cause unknown

December 25, 1990

Heater in pipe chase at Oak Knolls caught fire. Water pipe broke containing fire, no area burned

☺ **June 10, 1992**

Small grass fire next to Oak Tree Dedication. SRFD responded, 1 acre burned, cause unknown

June 20, 1993

Caltrans Right of Way adjacent to SLP, grass fire. SRFD responded, no park damage

July 10, 1993

NW of West Dam small grass fire, SRFD water down area

July 11, 1993

Lagoon over flow parking lot, a VW Bug caught fire. SRFD put out fire

☺ **July 25, 1993**

A child at neighboring home bounced a tennis ball on fire over fence. SRFD, CDF, and County Fire Dept. responded, 5 acres were burned

February 2, 1993

Storyteller's Cavern an illegal fire smoldering, a party was apparent. Area was cleaned, no property damage

□ **September 9, 1994**

Outside agency assist, fire in Annadel State Park. CDF, State Parks and two other agencies assisted. Cause unknown, area burned unknown

June 29, 1995

Storyteller's Cavern an illegal party and campfire. Smoldering fire doused and area cleaned

July 5, 1995

Storyteller's Cavern illegal party and campfire. Smoldering fire

	July 11, 1995	doused and cleaned Storyteller's Cavern illegal party and campfire. Smoldering fire
	August 8, 1995	doused and cleaned A tree near Shady Oaks area was smoldering, a cigarette was put out in a knot hole. The tree was doused with water, no fire agency needed
	October 8, 1995	A fire in a barbecue pit with leaves and pine cones. The fire was doused with water, no fire agency needed
□	October 19, 1995	Outside agency assist, fire in Annadel State Park. CDF and Rincon Valley Fire Dept. responded. Cause unknown, 3-4 acres were burned
	May 12, 1996	Dumpster on fire, SRFD contacted to put out fire. Cause was hot coals from barbecue
	June 18, 1996	Visitor overlook had the 2'x6' planks charred, area cleaned
	July 6, 1996	Arcing wires near Saddle Dam. Fire Dept. contacted PG&E of wires. Tree was trimmed away from wire, no fire action taken
∃	May 25, 1997	An 1-acre fire in Jack Rabbit Picnic Area. CDF responded, cause unknown
	July 6, 1997	Fire at burn pile and garbage bins. SRFD responded, area burned 100'x75' as well as one garbage bin. Cause unknown
	July 7, 1997	The remains of a trash can fire at the view deck. No other damage done
	August 26, 1997	A tree stump found burning behind the camp host. The stump was doused with water. No other damage done
	May 23, 1998	An illegal ground fire in lower Jackrabbit picnic area. Park visitor put out fire, no damage done

SONOMA VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

	April 3, 1990	Glen Ellen responded to a fire on the east end of bike path. Cause unknown, area burned 20'x30'
	April 12, 1991	Evidence of a campfire along bike path, area cleaned and Glen Ellen Fire Dept. notified
	November 11, 1991	Evidence of a campfire along the bike path at a picnic table. Area was cleaned
	June 23, 1996	An illegal campfire west of parking lot, CDF responded and put out hot coals

MAXWELL REGIONAL PARK

	June 10, 1990	Grass fire near overflow parking lot. Fire Dept. responded, area burned 75'x50'. Cause unknown
	July 24, 1990	A smoldering log at the southwest end of walking trail was put out by V.O.M.F.D, no acres burned
∃∃	August 8, 1990	Grassfire at the group picnic are. V.O.M.F.D responded. Cause was paper from a barbecue pit landing on grass. Acres burned 1/4 acre
	November 11, 1990	An abandoned motorcycle on fire. Cause unknown, no land burned. V.O.M.F.D responded
	December 12, 1990	Remains of small fire along the second tree line. Area cleaned by ranger
	May 21, 1991	Two 25 foot logs were burning for few hours. V.O.M.F.D responded, area burned 20'x20'

	April 5, 1992	Small fire smoldering in bark at park entrance. Area was saturated with water, no fired agency needed
	May 9, 1992	Evidence of small amount of trash burned in front of restrooms. No damage done
	July 20, 1992	A small area burned near park entrance. V.O.M.F.D responded saturating area. Cause unknown, area burned 4'x6'
	July 29, 1992	S.E. slope to Sonoma Creek, under Verano St. Bridge. V.O.M.F.D responded to small fire. Cause unknown, area burned 20'x15'
	September 27, 1992	Fire in first meadow, County Fire Dept. responded. Cause possible arson, area burned 75'x50'
	October 17, 1992	Remains of burned plastic in front of restroom. Area cleaned, no further action taken
	November 8, 1992	Fire Dept. extinguished small fire near the Ball Field, damage to snow fence
	February 21, 1993	Snow fencing in first meadow was set on fire. Fire Dept. responded, cause possible arson. Area burned 50' of fencing
	April 23, 1993	Small fire in bark chips across from Iron Ranger, area was saturated with water
	June 10, 1993	Two trash can fires, no damage
	June 25, 1993	Trash can liner set on fire on top of trash can, no other damage done
	June 27, 1993	Remains of a small fire down by Sonoma Creek, area cleaned, no further action needed
	July 17, 1993	Three grass fires near creek. V.O.M.F.D responded to all fires. Cause arson by three juveniles. Areas burned #1-50'x60', #2-15'x20', #3-20'x70'
	August 15, 1993	Two small fires across from Iron Ranger in the redwood bark. Cause unknown, area saturated with water
	August 22, 1993	Remains of three trash can fires intentionally set
☹☹	October 2, 1993	West side of the second tree line, ¼-acre fire. V.O.M.F.D responded, cause unknown
	April 12, 1994	Smoldering ember in redwood bark across from Iron Ranger. Area saturated with water and stirred
	April 22, 1994	An old large Bay Tree was stuffed with flammable materials and set on fire. V.O.M.F.D responded, cause arson. No other damage done
	May 14, 1994	A small fire in the first tree line, V.O.M.F.D responded, cause unknown. Size of area burned unknown
	June 12, 1994	Two small fires in the first tree line, fire put out by off volunteer fireman. Cause possible arson, area burned 6' in diameter. Fire Chief rechecked area
☹☹	July 29, 1994	Southwest corner of park a fire was moving through the Bay Tree line. V.O.M.F.D responded, acres burned ½ acre, cause unknown
	August 1, 1994	Fire in a downed Bay Tree limb. V.O.M.F.D responded, cause unknown, no other damage to area
	September 2, 1994	Trash can fire, fire started by juvenile. No other damage done
	September 25, 1994	The remains an illegal campfire in the second tree line, area cleaned of remains
	December 14, 1994	Remains of fire site against retaining wall. No other damage done
	July 7, 1995	Fire in first tree line, V.O.M.F.D responded, cause unknown, area burned unknown
☹☹	September 3, 1995	Park visitor ignited toy rocket lighting grass on fire. V.O.M.F.D

	responded, acres burned acre
September 17, 1995	Smoldering tree in the first tree line. V.O.M.F.D responded, cause was group of juvenile boys, no other damage found
November 11, 1995	Trash can fire in picnic area
February 23, 1996	Burnt pile of toilet paper inside handicap restroom. Area cleaned and sanitized
June 25, 1996	Fire in first tree line behind baseball fields. V.O.M.F.D responded, cause unknown, area burned unknown
September 20, 1997	Fire at park entrance in mulching materials, cause unknown, V.O.M.F.D responded, area burned unknown
November 11, 1997	Fire behind T-Ball field in tree line. V.O.M.F.D responded. Cause unknown and area unknown
October 18, 1998	A large hollow Bay Tree was on fire. V.O.M.F.D responded and Atlas Tree to open tree. No damage to property, cause unknown

HOOD MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

	October 15, 1990	Remains of illegal fire-ring, no damage done
☐	July 30, 1992	Grass fire caused by neighbors target shooting at metal object. CDF and County Fire Dept. responded, area burned 4 acres private property, 2 acres Parks property

GUALALA REGIONAL PARK

	July 13, 1991	Burning driftwood on beach. CDF responded, cause unknown. No damage to area
	September 5, 1991	Lantern hung on tree in campsite #10, ignited tree. CDF responded, damage to tree only
	July 14, 1993	Bonfire on Gualala Beach, CDF responded. No other damage done
	July 25, 1998	An illegal campfire on beach. The fire was extinguished, no damage done

SEA RANCH TRAILS ACCESS

	June 27, 1991	Illegal campfire on Black Point Beach. CDF responded, no damage done
	September 9, 1991	Illegal campfire on Shell Beach, fire was extinguished by citizen. No damage done
	June 15, 1997	Illegal bonfire on Black Point Beach. CDF responded to remove hot logs. No area burned

STEELEHEAD BEACH REGIONAL PARK

	April 25, 1998	An illegal campfire on river bank. Campers extinguished fire, no damage done
	August 13, 1998	Three fires along road. Possible arson by juveniles, CDF and Forestville Fire Dept. responded. Two fires were campsite sized, the other was 18'x6', six small trees were scorched in the fire

MADDUX REGIONAL PARK

	August 5, 1998	The remains of a car fire after hours. Rincoln Valley Fire Dept.
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July 8, 1998

responded, cause is suspicious, no property damage done
Remains of a trash can fire. Rincon Valley Fire Dept. responded
after hours, cause unknown, no property damage

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